GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2210
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2016
Availability of Pulses, Rice and Wheat
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the demand and availability of pulses, rice and wheat in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether efforts of the Government to increase the production of these crops are not yielding the desired results in the country, and if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has developed and released several early maturing pulse varieties including arhar dal and moong dal for commercial cultivation to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to provide seeds of these pulse varieties to the farmers and ensure their sale and availability in the market along with the availability of such seeds of other crops in the country, crop-wise; and

(d) whether the Government is considering to set up seed hubs and provide incentives to seed growers and take steps to strengthen bio-fertilizer and bio-agent labs, distribution of seed mini kits, enhancing breeder seed production and demonstration of improved crop production technologies and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to increase minimum support price for crops and provide incentives/bonus over MSP for cultivation of pulses in the country, and if so, the details thereof and the roadmap drawn up to increase the production of pulses in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): The State-wise data of availability and demand of agricultural crops are not available. As per the Report of the Working Group on Crop Husbandry, Agricultural Inputs, Demand and Supply Projections and Agricultural Statistics for the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) total demand for pulses, rice, and wheat for 2016-17 is projected at 21.68 million tonnes, 89.06 million tonnes and 110.21 million tonnes respectively. Details of all India availability of pulses, rice and wheat during the last three years i.e. 2013-14 to 2015-16 are given in the Table below :

Contdâ€¦2/-

(Million tonnes)

Crop	Availability (Production + Imports)		
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16P
Pulses	22.89	21.74	22.27
Rice	106.66	105.49	104.32
Wheat	95.88	86.56	94.02

P : Provisional

(b) & (c): Details of production of pulses, rice and wheat in the country for 2013-14 to 2015-16 are given in the Table below:

(Million tonnes)

Crop	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16*
Pulses	19.25	17.15	16.47
Rice	106.65	105.48	104.32
Wheat	95.85	86.53	93.50

* 4th Advance Estimates

The agricultural production depends upon several factors including availability of cultivable land, vagaries of nature, temperature, weather and rainfall scenario, availability of water in reservoirs etc.

To increase production and productivity of agricultural crops, Government of India is implementing through State Governments, several Crop Development Schemes/Programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Soil Health Card etc.

Under these Schemes/Programmes, funds are provided to States for implementation of State-specific agricultural strategies including incentives to farmers for use of quality seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), farm mechanization, etc. The States are also provided support for creation of agricultural infrastructure for optimal use of water and other natural resources.

In order to increase the production of pulses, rice and wheat, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is engaged in basic, strategic and applied research programmes on different pulses (Chickpea, Pigeonpea, Mungbean, Urdbean, Lentil, Lathyrus, Rajmash, Fieldpea, Mothbean, Horsegram and Cowpea), rice and wheat at four commodity based institutes and six All India Coordinated Research Projects on these crops for developing location specific varieties/hybrids and suitable production and protection technologies. The efforts of ICAR have resulted in the release of 79 varieties of different pulses, 143 of rice and 61 of wheat that have fair degree of tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses. Early maturing varieties/hybrids of oilseeds and pulses have also been found suitable for cultivation in newer niches and cropping systems.

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(d): Under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) - Pulses 100 Seed Hubs have been approved for increasing indigenous seed production of pulses through ICAR, State Agriculture Universities (SAUs) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) are being carried out by KVKs of ICAR and SAUs during kharif, rabi and summer seasons to demonstrate improved production technologies including seeds of newer varieties of pulses. 15% of allocation for pulses under NFSM is earmarked for production of quality seeds to State Governments.

Details of cropwise requirement and availability of certified/quality seed for 2014-15 to 2016-17 is at Annexure.

(e): Government has increased Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of all crops in 2016-17 season. In addition, to incentivize farmers to grow pulses a bonus of Rs. 425 per quintal each for Tur, Moong and Urad, Rs. 200 per quintal for Gram and Rs. 150 per quintal for Masur has also been announced for 2016-17 season.

Government has also taken several initiatives to increase production of pulses which inter alia includes NFSM-Pulses, BGREI-as part of demonstrations under cropping system based approach to target rice fallow areas, FLDs of pulses, Production of breeder seeds etc.

In addition Government is undertaking procurement, whenever required, to ensure MSP to the farmers.